

Pamlico County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)
Steering Committee Meeting
Pamlico County Court House Annex
202 Main Street, Bayboro, NC. 28515
April 15, 2009, 1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Phyllis Toler	CARTS-Craven Area Regional Transportation Service
Doug Sligh	Town of Oriental, Bicycle Club and Pamlico Musical Society
David Cox	Town of Oriental, Commissioner
Robert Will	Down East Rural Planning Organization (DERPO)
Reed Smith, PE.	NCDOT-Highway Division 2, District Engineer
James Upchurch	NCDOT-Transportation Planning Branch, Southeast Group
Carlos Moya-Astudillo	NCDOT-Transportation Planning Branch (TPB)

The meeting opened with introductions. Phyllis Toler was asked to give a brief overview of what CARTS is and how they serve the transportation needs of the citizens of Pamlico County. She explained that CARTS is funded by three main sources –Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program (E&DTAP) for the elderly and disabled, Rural General Public Program (RGP) for the rural general population, and Work First Program (WF) for Work First eligible residents. CARTS is regional, it serves residents of Craven, Jones and Pamlico counties. The services that are available in Pamlico County include three specially modified vans to accommodate the elderly and/or handicapped- one is full time within the county and predominantly picks up students of the community college with special needs. A second van travels to New Bern Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays with dialysis patients. The third van transports people to New Bern for other doctor or shopping visits. There is a weekly van that transports people to the Walmart store in New Bern, Craven County.

The steering committee had a dialogue on the costs of transportation, the impact of gas prices and the historical modes of public transit.

James Upchurch then discussed the next steps for the plan, as many of the elements are done and the report is in draft form. He indicated that we should be interested in having a public workshop in July or August and at that time also work with representatives from the towns to talk to town elected officials for adoption in their respective incorporated towns, and then present to the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners for adoption in August/September. Carlos also mentioned that we would like to give an update and ask for the commissioner’s ‘blessing’ in June to hold the public workshop(s) for the citizens of Pamlico County.

Carlos Moya-Astudillo gave a presentation on the bridges of Pamlico County—and how vital and unique these bridges are as elements of a highway system. He presented GIS (Geographic Information System) maps that showed which bridges are structurally deficient (means a bridge must be monitored, inspected and repaired/replaced at an appropriate time to maintain its structural integrity) and also which ones are functionally obsolete (are those that do not have adequate lane widths, shoulder widths or vertical clearances to serve current traffic demand or to meet the current geometric standards) with the respective geo-coded bridge data.

Carlos explained that this does not mean that the bridges are unsafe, but rather designed and built during a time with different standards, and that some of the elements of the bridges may be in disrepair.

Finally the Steering committee reviewed the public transportation map in order to gain consensus on what the final recommendations should be. It was recommended that the proposed park and ride lot positioned roughly at the Community College be moved closer to the intersection of NC 306 and Neuse Rd. (SR 1005). Additionally, growth is anticipated in the Mesic/Vandemere area so the route was extended to Mesic with an additional park and ride lot to be located in the area. With the changes proposed, the steering committee agreed that the draft maps were complete.